



[Subscribe to the FHG newsletter](#)

LIFE BEYOND THE MILITARY – OUTDOORS

SUMMER 2024

WELCOME TO OUR 2024 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

FROM THE CEO'S DESK: A SEASON OF GROWTH AND GRATITUDE

What an amazing and diverse last few months it has been, and with thanks, the sun is now shining brighter on HighGround Charity and our beneficiaries and of course our Friends of HighGround. Our journey continues to be one of incredible growth, collaboration, and unwavering commitment to those we serve. I am thrilled to share the highlights of our recent accomplishments and the exciting prospects that lie ahead.

Our Friends of HighGround and alumni are the heart and soul of our charity. Their unwavering support, shared experiences, and dedication to our mission create a strong, vibrant community that propels us forward. From volunteering at events to mentoring new beneficiaries, their contributions are invaluable. We are immensely grateful for everything they do and look forward to celebrating together at our upcoming summer BBQ. This event will be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, share stories, and express our heartfelt thanks for their ongoing support.

HighGround has been steadfast in widening its circle of influence within the land-based sector, creating valuable opportunities for our beneficiaries. Our efforts to build bridges with key industry players have opened new doors and set the stage for meaningful careers for those transitioning from military to civilian life.

One of the significant milestones this season was the submission of HighGround's application for the ERS Gold Award. Achieving this recognition would be a monumental testament to our dedication and the exemplary support we offer to the Armed Forces community. We eagerly await the outcome and the positive impact it will bring to our charity.

Our collaboration with other charities remains a cornerstone of our mission. By working together, we ensure that our beneficiaries receive the comprehensive support they deserve. This collective effort amplifies our impact and fosters a stronger support network for our community.

We are delighted to announce our lifelong membership with the CLA, a partnership that brings invaluable resources and opportunities to HighGround. This membership solidifies our commitment to the land-based sector and enhances our ability to support our beneficiaries.

Our representation at Cobseo events, such as the Employment Cluster meetings, Female Cluster meetings, and seminars on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion, ensures that we remain at the forefront of advocacy and support for our community. Additionally, upskilling at the recent Wilsons Solicitors Armed Forces Charity Seminar in the Churchill War Rooms underscored the importance of governance in our operations.

Networking remains a vital component of our strategy, and recent conversations with employers such as GMA, Mole Valley Farmers, CLA, Vinescapes, and land-based colleges like Sparsholt have been instrumental. These interactions help us forge stronger relationships and create more opportunities for our beneficiaries.

The county show season has begun, and we have already made our mark at the Devon County and Royal Cornwall shows, thanks to the support of the CLA. These events are fantastic opportunities to showcase our work and engage with the broader community.

Meeting the Prime Minister and the Minister for the OVA at the RAF Museum for the launch of Op PROSPER was a highlight. Being part of the Op PROSPER community allows HighGround to play a significant role in supporting veterans into employment, furthering our mission to provide meaningful career opportunities.

Thanks to funding from the Forces Trust, we are excited to announce the upcoming launch of our own HighGround Podcast. This new platform will enable us to share stories, insights, and updates directly with our community—watch this space for more details!

In June, we celebrated the affiliations of the Pen & Sword Club, SSAFA, and HighGround with a wonderful drinks' reception. These partnerships are vital to our mission, and we are grateful for their support and collaboration.

Finally, a huge thank you to all the donors and grant-makers who support HighGround's key delivery. Your generosity makes our work possible and impactful.

As we move forward, let's continue to build on this momentum, ensuring that our efforts remain impactful and our commitment unwavering. Thank you for being a part of HighGround's journey.

With gratitude,

Jamie CEO
HighGround Charity



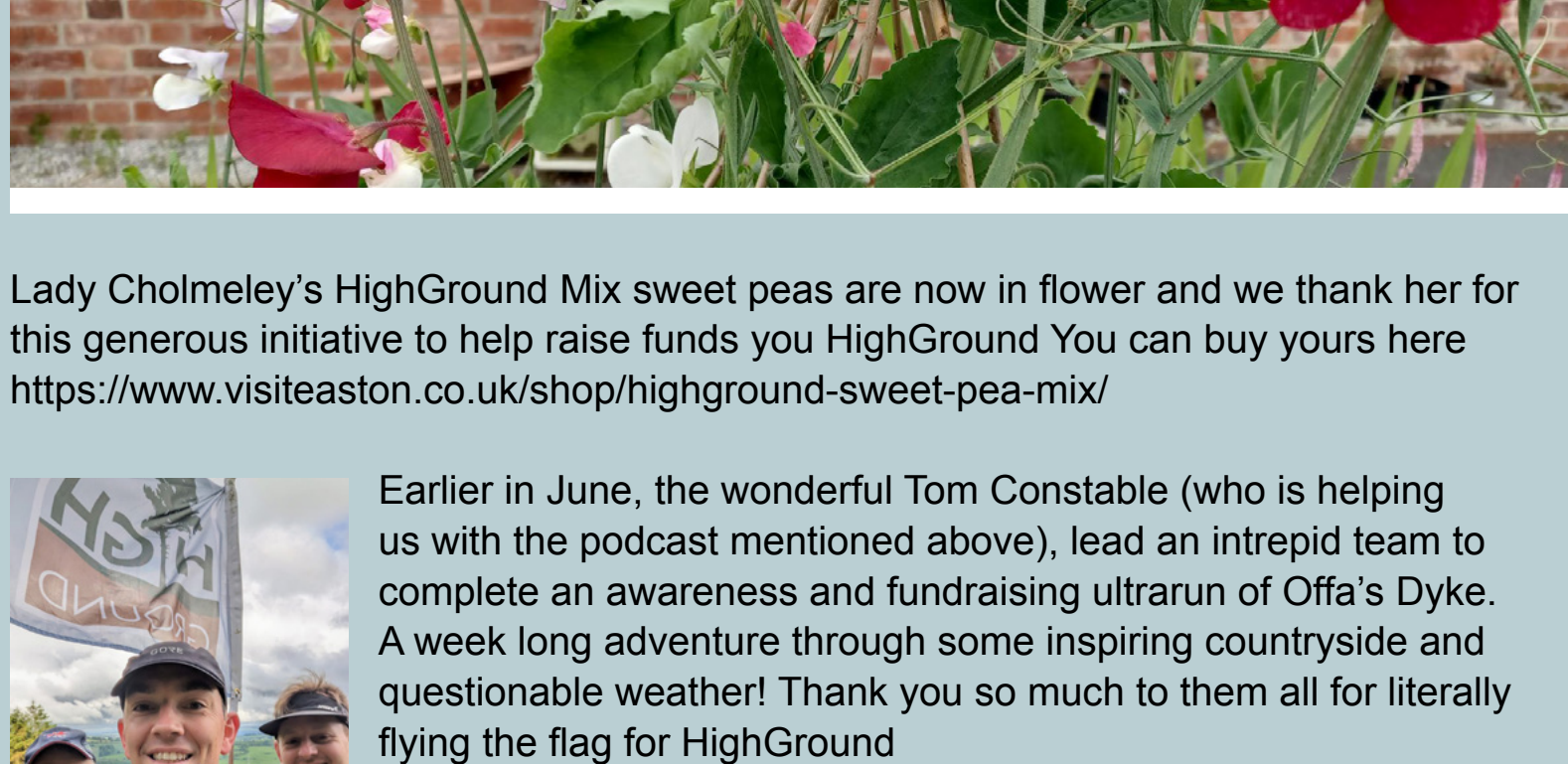
Op PROSPER Event

FUNDRAISING – FROM THE DESK OF ANNA (HEAD OF INCOME GENERATION)

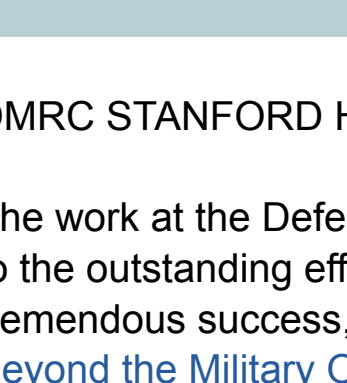
Friends of HighGround is the voluntary arm of HighGround which supports and promotes the work of the Charity with fundraising and community awareness initiatives both locally and nationally.

Our Friend Sally Thompson's stall at Middleton Cheney Plant Sale on 18th May raised £337 <https://highground-uk.org/News/middleton-cheney-plant-sale-in-aid-of-highground/> and she has already booked a stall for next year – Go Sally!

Anna is working hard to keep the grants coming in and we offer our thanks for incredible generosity to (amongst others) the Wates Foundation, AFCFT, Headley Court Charity, Robertson Ness Trust, 29th May 1961 Trust, the Forces Trust, Greenwich Hospital, Lloyd's Patriotic Fund, the Worshipful Company of Glovers, the Swire Charitable Trust and the Hanley Trust for their continued support.



Lady Cholmeley's HighGround Mix sweet peas are now in flower and we thank her for this generous initiative to help raise funds you HighGround You can buy yours here <https://www.visiteaston.co.uk/shop/highground-sweet-pea-mix/>



Earlier in June, the wonderful Tom Constable (who is helping us with the podcast mentioned above), lead an intrepid team to complete an awareness and fundraising ultrarun of Offa's Dyke. A week long adventure through some inspiring countryside and questionable weather! Thank you so much to them all for literally flying the flag for HighGround

If you would like to fundraise for us (ultraruns are not compulsory!) please head to the Support Us page on the website or contact Anna direct.

DMRC STANFORD HALL

The work at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) continues to thrive, thanks to the outstanding efforts of Jane and Steve. Their recent farm shop fundraiser was a tremendous success, [Farm shop success at DMRC Stanford Hall - HighGround - Life Beyond the Military Outdoors \(highground-uk.org\)](#)

We are excited to announce the advertisement for an additional occupational therapist at DMRC, made possible by the generosity of the Headley Court Trust. [Join Us - HighGround - Life Beyond the Military Outdoors \(highground-uk.org\)](#)

It was a huge pleasure to welcome Jonathan Ball and Rose Atkinson-Park from Greenwich Hospital to DMRC Stanford Hall so they could meet Jane and Steve and see how their funding is supporting the Horticultural Therapy service and making a difference to the lives of DMRC's patients.

We are grateful to Steve Birnie and his team of volunteers from Severn Trent who spent the day with Jane and Steve helping with a long list of tasks which they never have time for – corporate volunteering and the Armed Forces Covenant at their very best and we look forward to expanding this fruitful relationship.

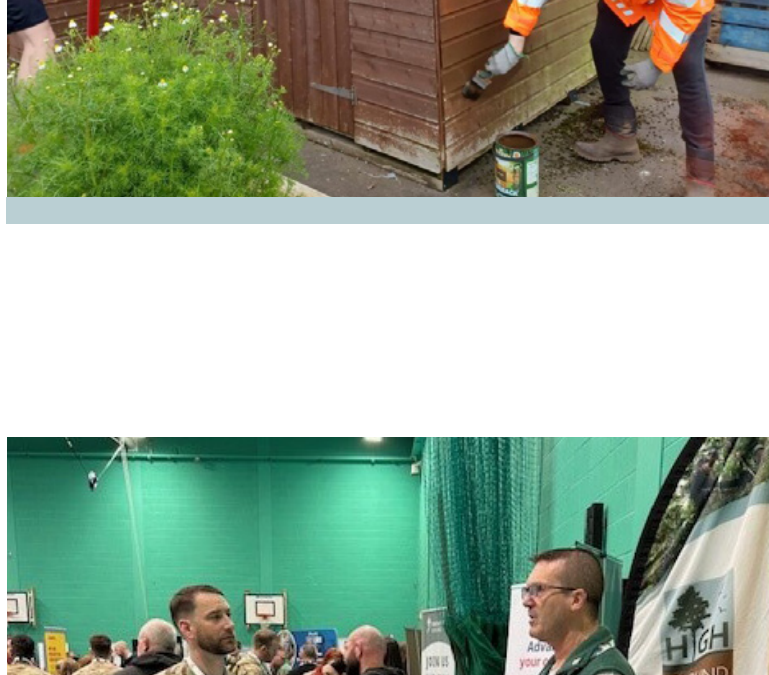


OPERATIONS NEWS

RURAL WEEKS

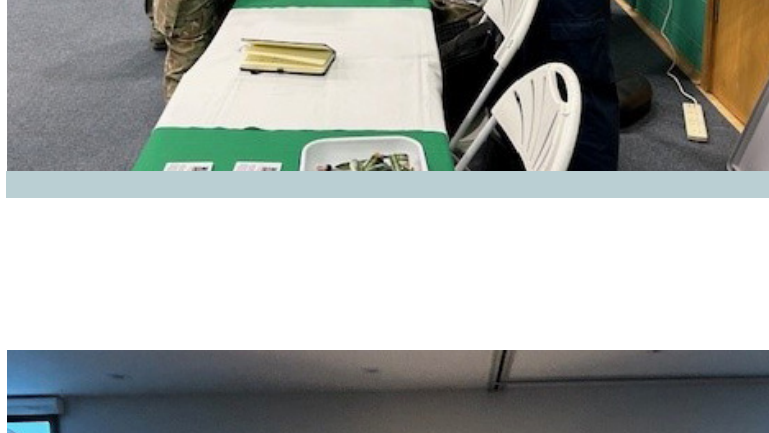
To date, we have delivered two virtual Rural Weeks; a second pilot residential week at Askham Bryan College; two residential Rural Weeks at Bicton College, and one Residential Experience Week. The plans and recruiting for the remaining weeks of 2024 are well underway. Our heartfelt thanks go out to both colleges, our industry supporters, guest speakers, and alumni who make the beneficiaries' experience truly gold-plated.

You can read about the Rural Weeks [here](#).



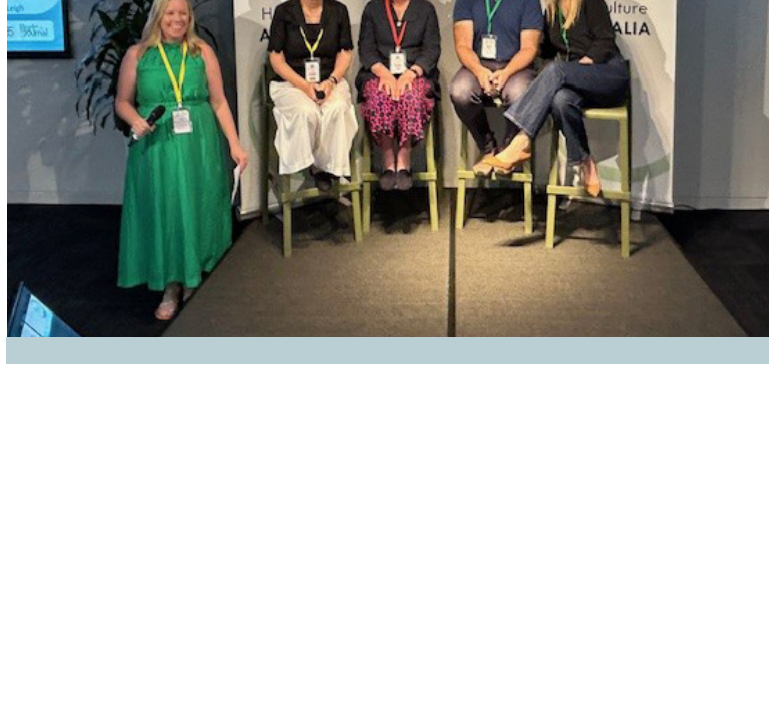
CAREERS FAIRS

Our presence at national careers events, including NTE and CTP events in Newbury, Plymouth, Salford, Edinburgh, Telford, Bristol, and BFRS events in Tidworth, Catterick and Stafford, has been robust. The number of conversations taking place at each event is testament to the need for HighGround's presence. It's always so good to have word of mouth recommendations encouraging service leavers to seek us out. These events are crucial in connecting our beneficiaries with potential employers and showcasing the unique skills they bring to the table.



ANNA GOES INTERNATIONAL!

In May, Anna travelled to Queensland, Australia to deliver a keynote address to the Therapeutic Horticulture Australia conference. A fabulous return trip to Noosa for Anna, and another chance to spread the word about HighGround's work at DMRC Stanford Hall.



WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Over the next few months, you will begin to see changes to the website which are aimed at making it more relevant to all the users by having dedicated pages and links. Huge thanks to Andrew and Shaun our wonderful freelancers who make the tech work!

Our Social Media presence continues to grow, and we hope that the regular updates on the HighGround Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn pages, together with posts by Jamie and Anna help keep you up to date with where we are and what we're doing.

Our closed LinkedIn group for HighGrounders (our course alumni) is growing in numbers and we have had some fabulous job and training opportunities posted in there. Please do get in touch with Anna or Heather if you have a relevant job opportunity you would like us to highlight.

THE HIGHGROUND TEAM HAS NOW SETTLED INTO THEIR ROLES:

CEO

Jamie Crisp

Head of Income Generation and Founder

Anna Baker Cresswell

Operations Manager

Heather Crawford

Horticultural Therapist

Jane Taylor

Therapeutic Gardens Manager

Steve Waters, ably assisted by our supportive Trustees, alongside Chris, Pete, Katie, Ruth, Andrew and Shaun.

We look forward to another exciting few months and continue spreading the message – #outdoorsisbetter!

GET IN TOUCH

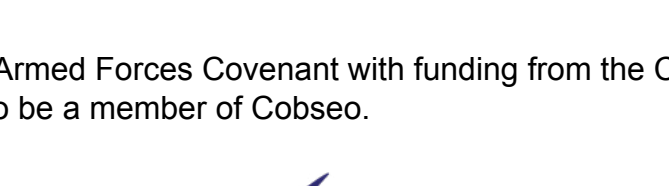
DONATE NOW

GDPR AND OUR STANDARDS

GDPR came into effect on 25th May 2018. We had an extremely busy run up to this date, but our small team were able to pull out all the stops and get things in place in time. As a charity we take GDPR and the security of your information very seriously. To this end, we have ensured that all of our data processors comply rigorously to keep everything secure. You can read about our Standards [here](#).

You are reading this newsletter because you are a Friend of HighGround.

Do please share it with anyone you think would be interested in our work – we are nothing without our Friends.



Copyright © 2019 HighGround, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you have opted in to receive our Friends of HighGround newsletter.

Our mailing address is:
HighGround, c/o The Poppy Factory, 20 Petersham Road, Richmond, Greater London TW10 6UR.

[Add us to your address book](#)

Charity Reg No: 1151225. Limited Company No: 08236843



Funded by the Armed Forces Covenant with funding from the Covenant Fund.
We are proud to be a member of Cobseo.



Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR



Cobseo
The Confederation
of Service Charities

